

National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), Tribal Liberation Organisation (TLO) etc., have severely hit the operations of ONGC Ltd. in their Tripura Project.

(c) With a view to boost the exploration for oil and gas in Tripura, a Block measuring 3,000 Sq. Kms. (AA-ON-3) has been awarded to a private/multinational Company. Also, ONGC Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNOCAL of USA to jointly explore and exploit the PEL areas of ONGC.

ONGC

138. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has deducted FPF amounts from employees w.e.f. November 16, 1995 onwards;

(b) if so, the reasons for such deduction;

(c) whether ONGC can keep FPF amount into their own accounts w.e.f. November 16, 1995 onwards;

(d) if not, the action taken by Government against ONGC for violation of order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ONGC Ltd. has applied to EPF authorities for exemption from the purview of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995, under Clause 39 of the Scheme.

(c) and (d). No FPF amount has been kept by ONGC Ltd. into its own accounts.

Power Projects

139. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power projects recommended by the State Government of Kerala are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the number of projects from Kerala cleared by the Union Government during the last 3 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). Puyankutty Hydro Electric Project 2x120 MW, recommended by the Government of Kerala, has not been accorded forest clearance by the Ministry of Environment & Forests so far.

(d) Two power projects namely DG sets at Brahmapuram (5x20 MW) and DG Sets at Kozikode

(6x20 MW) have been given investment approval during the last three years.

LPG Connections

140. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is illegal sale of MP's LPG quota coupons in the open market for a price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken by the Government to stop such illegal sale trade of gas connections from MP's quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Government is not aware of any illegal sale of MP's LPG quota coupons.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Kothagudem Thermal Power Project

141. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for release of funds for the works on stage V of Kothagudem thermal power station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) have requested Power Finance Corporation (PFC) for a term loan assistance of Rs. 500 crores for completion of Stage V (2x250 MW) Units 9 and 10 of Kothagudem Thermal Power Station.

(c) PFC have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 130 crores in August, 1996 to APSEB towards completion of balance works in respect of Unit 9, programmed to be synchronised by March, 1997.

Dwelling Unit to Homeless

142. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by the Chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) while addressing a function in New Delhi on the World Habitat Day to the effect that the right to own a descent dwelling should be made a fundamental right;

(b) if so, the Government's response to this demand; indicating the estimated number of dwelling units required in urban areas to provide a dwelling unit each family without an abode; and

(c) the estimated number of persons without any abode in urban areas at the beginning of the eighth five year plan and at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government is committed to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to adequate standard of living through a number of concrete measures outlined in the National Housing Policy.

Estimates based on 1991 Census data reveal a housing shortage of 8.23 million dwelling units as of 1.3.1991 in urban areas. It is estimated that the shortage is to the tune of 7.71 million units as of 1.3.1996. It is further estimated that about 16.90 million units would be required to be constructed to meet the entire housing shortage by the year 2002.

Indian Rare Earths

143. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the States where the Indian Rare Earth (IRE)

has been operating its plants alongwith the locations thereof;

(b) the production of these plants during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the capacity utilisation of these plants has been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The Indian Rare Earths Limited has plants at Manvala-kurichi in Tamil Nadu, Chavara and Alwaye in Kerala and Chatrapur in Orissa.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d). Full capacity utilisation is being achieved in all the plants, except in the Mineral Separation and Synthetic Rutile Plants at Chatrapur in Orissa. It has not been possible to achieve the designed capacity utilisation in the Synthetic Rutile Plant at Chatrapur for technological reasons. Production from the Mineral separation Plant at Chatrapur is being curtailed because of the failure of the Synthetic Rutile Plant and the low marketability of the poor grade of the mineral at Chatrapur. The processing of monazite for the year 1995-96 had to be reduced in the Rare Earths Plant at Alwaye due to problems related to storage of Thorium Concentrates.

Production and Capacity Utilisation of main products of various plants of Indian Rare Earths Limited.

Year	Production	Rated Capacity (MT)	Actual Production (MT)	Capacity Utilisation %
1	2	3	4	5
Mineral Separation Plant, Chavara				
1993-94	Ilmenite	78000	140194	180
1994-95	Ilmenite	78000	136266	175
1995-96	Ilmenite	78000	113098	145
Mineral Separation Plant, Manavalakurichi				
1993-94	Ilmenite	64400	67283	104
1994-95	Ilmenite	64400	68284	106
1995-96	Ilmenite	64400	70501	109
Mineral Separation Plant, (OSCOM) Chatrapur				
1993-94	Ilmenite	220000	51031	23
1994-95	Ilmenite	220000	73522	33
1995-96	Ilmenite	220000	102715	47